

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to show my support for Child Care Connections and their Best Beginnings Scholarship program. I have had a wonderful experience and an extreme amount of parental support due to this program.

We all try our hardest to plan our lives, to be prepared, but there are things that happen in life that you just cannot prepare yourself for. At the age of 33, I found myself a jobless single parent and knew that the best course of action to secure a future for my little family was to return to college to complete my undergraduate degree. In May I will be graduating with very good grades and plan to attend graduate school. None of this would have been possible, however, had it not been for the Best Beginnings Scholarship program.

With my son able to receive the scholarship for preschool, I was allowed to focus on my studies knowing he was being very well taken care of in a licensed childcare facility with teachers trained and educated in early childhood development. Studies show that children who are enrolled in preschool often times fare much better when it comes time for elementary school than those who are not. These children are kindergarten ready, not just academically, but socially as well. And the success of these children carries on throughout their lives.

My son spends his days at school practicing his letters, building, playing with his friends, creating artistic masterpieces, and exploring the various learning centers set up around the school. This month the children are learning about space and he now knows all 8 of the planets, in order. I owe so much of his (and my) success to his school and his teachers. This is the kind of education and interaction he would not have gotten had the Best Beginnings scholarship not been an option for us.

The scholarship also opened up opportunities for our evenings together. Without the added financial stress, I have been able to spend our evenings doing the most important thing I can think of, being his mother. We eat dinner together every night and he gets a bath and bedtime stories every night at the same time. This scholarship has allowed me to create nighttime structure and routine in my son's life, something every young child thrives on.

I returned to school, not for myself, but for my son. Not only does a college degree help to secure a future for us, but also it sets an example for him. It shows my son that education and schooling are very important and so is finishing what you've started. And again, I could not have completed my college education had it not been for the Best Beginnings Scholarship program.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I just hope that my gratitude to this program and his school come across.

Sincerely,
Jessica Sowell